

F.W. STEVENS

1. Holder of the first-issued 1st Class Aircraft Operator's Certificate of Proficiency in Wireless Telegraphy.
2. Opened broadcast station 4QG as Chief Engineer with J.W. Robinson as Manager 1923.
3. When Hitchcock and Anderson were missing on a search flight looking for Kingsford Smith and Ulm an intensive air search took place. The Defence Department sent out three Air Force machines and on 19th April 1929 when they had been missing for nine days, Lester Brain with F.W. Stevens and Compston (Engineer) set out in the DH50J "Atalanta" from Brisbane for the search area.

On 21st April when about eighty miles south east of Wave Hill Brain and Stevens sighted the lost aircraft, the "Kookaburra". A ground party subsequently recovered the bodies of Hitchcock and Andersen.

(Source - "Qantas Rising" by Sir Hudson Fysh)

4. F.W.S. was a crew member on a delivery flight of a PB15 Consolidated Flying Boat A24-18 AFS which left Honolulu on 17th October 1941 on its delivery flight with Lester Brain as Commander and P.G. Taylor as Navigator. The aircraft flew non-stop Suva to Sydney.

(Source - "Qantas Aeriana" 1920-1954 by E.A. Crome)

5. F.W.S. was engaged in flying as Co-pilot on the DH86 service to Singapore, where Qantas services linked up with Imperial Airways. He mentioned a visit to the cockpit by Captain Patrick (of Patrick Steamship Pty, Brisbane) who observed that he had lived an adventurous life at sea including voyages around Cape Horn but flying from Singapore to Darwin was an even greater adventure.